



MAGIC VALLEY

BLAINE, CAMAS, CASSIA, GOODING, JEROME, LINCOLN, MINIDOKA, & TWIN FALLS COUNTIES

Magic Valley Table 1: Labor Force & Employment Twin Falls, Jerome, and Gooding counties					
	Sept 2000	August 2000	Sept 1999	% Change From Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
Seasonally Adjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	47,480	47,090	47,390	0.8	0.2
Unemployment	1,950	1,540	2,120	26.6	-8.0
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.1	3.3	4.5		
Total Employment	45,530	45,550	45,270	0.0	0.6
Unadjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	48,560	49,070	48,460	-1.0	0.2
Unemployment	1,580	1,750	1,710	-9.7	-7.6
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.3	3.6	3.5		
Total Employment	46,980	47,320	46,750	-0.7	0.5
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**	37,610	37,790	37,520	-0.5	0.2
Goods-Producing Industries	7,920	7,920	7,600	0.0	4.2
Mining & Construction	2,230	2,280	2,200	-2.2	1.4
Manufacturing	5,690	5,640	5,400	0.9	5.4
Durable Goods	800	800	790	0.0	1.3
Nondurable Goods	4,890	4,840	4,610	1.0	6.1
Food Processing	3,890	3,840	3,570	1.3	9.0
All Other Nondurable Goods	1,000	1,000	1,040	0.0	-3.8
Service-Producing Industries	29,690	29,870	29,920	-0.6	-0.8
Transportation, Comm., & Utilities	3,060	2,870	2,920	6.6	4.8
Wholesale Trade	2,410	2,430	2,550	-0.8	-5.5
Retail Trade	7,490	7,700	8,420	-2.7	-11.0
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	1,410	1,410	1,440	0.0	-2.1
Services	8,890	9,070	8,540	-2.0	4.1
Government Administration	3,760	3,820	3,580	-1.6	5.0
Government Education	2,670	2,570	2,470	3.9	8.1
*Preliminary Estimate					
**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month					

tance that feedlots must be "set back" from water sources, roads, etc. The county planners have been asked by University of Idaho extension agents to study the Minnesota Odor from Feedlots Setback Estimation Tool program, which estimates the needed setback distances from animal production sites. This would ensure a useful tool to promote consistency in county decisions.

- The Jules Harrison Auto Dealerships in Twin Falls have a new owner. Gregg Middlekauff, who owned Middlekauff Lincoln-Mercury in Salt Lake City from 1982 to 1999, purchased the dealerships in four locations: Jules Harrison Ford on Blue Lakes Boulevard North in Twin Falls, Jules Harrison Ford on South Broadway in Buhl, and Theisen Motors at both Main Avenue East and the Magic Valley Mall in Twin Falls. Mr. Middlekauff sold his Salt Lake dealership to the Ford Motor Company in a 13-dealership buyout by the automaker in the Salt Lake Valley. For the time being, the names will remain the same.

- Lamb-Weston, Inc., one of Twin Falls' largest employers, recently hired 14 workers from the Pierce-Weippe area of Clearwater County in northern Idaho. The workers were permanently displaced when the Potlatch Corporation closed the Jaype timber mill in Pierce. The workers possess skills needed by the potato-processing giant such as maintenance and mechanical skills that are in tight supply in the Magic Valley labor market. Other Magic Valley businesses have expressed interest in the Jaype workers, and a Job Fair was held on November 16th in Orofino for interested employers.
- The College of Southern Idaho has announced plans to take the lead in the effort to regionalize economic development in the Magic Valley. C.S.I. will immediately begin recruitment efforts aimed at attracting and hiring a qualified regional economic development coordinator. The C.S.I. plan is two-fold: begin cooperative economic development in Twin Falls and Jerome; and then determine if a valley-wide entity would be effective to market the Magic Valley to new and expanding employers. The impetus for this plan was provided by the recent findings of the Atlanta-based Lockwood-Greene Consulting study. It advocated creating a six-county, professional organization for economic development and a regional coordinator. C.S.I. has begun the recruitment process for a regional coordinator and hopes to have someone on the job in the next 60 days.
- On October 1st, the Twin Falls Old Towne Business Improvement District and the Downtown Business Improvement District merged to become Historic Old Towne Twin Falls. As a result, the office of Executive Director Tim Jones has been moved from the second floor of the First Security Bank building on Main Street to a more accessible location at 113 Shoshone Street North.

Jerome, Gooding, Lincoln, Blaine, and Camas Counties

- The City of Jerome has chosen a new city administrator to fill the position vacated when Jon Cecil resigned at the end of July. The new administrator, Travis Rothweiler, comes to Jerome from Bozeman, Montana. Mr. Rothweiler earned his masters degree in public administration in 1998 from the University of Montana. As an intern, he worked for a member of the United States Senate and for the City of Bozeman. Since his graduation, he has been employed

by the Montana House of Representatives. City engineer Scott Bybee acted as interim city administrator until a Mr. Rothweiler was hired. Mr. Bybee will continue to be the city administrator for six months, with Mr. Rothweiler functioning as his assistant, so that a smooth transition can take place.

- The City of Hailey is now a certified Gem Community after two years work and study by the Hailey Chamber of Commerce's Economic Development Committee. The city is now eligible for matching grants of up to \$10,000 for the implementation of an economic development strategy. The community lists economic diversification and workforce development as its top priorities.

Cassia and Minidoka Counties

- Excel, Inc. has chosen Burley for its new operation where it will manufacture structurally engineered panels (SEP's). The SEP's are the brainchild of Del Loney, and are manufactured wood panels that are more structurally sound than stick lumber. Loney's company will manufacture the item, which is unlike any previously engineered panel. Built with spars and ribs, like an airplane wing, the panels will be able to span areas without supporting joists, as the joists interlock through the panels. The company hopes to be up and running at its new location at the old Valley Warehouse at 839 Albion Avenue by the end of the month. It will initially employ five workers per shift and run three shifts.
- The Mini-Cassia Development Commission has hired Mechelle McFarland as its new economic development coordinator. McFarland is a 1985 graduate of Minico High School and has taken classes at Boise State University, Utah State University, and Wesleyan University. McFarland served as a part-time interim coordinator for the commission before being chosen as the permanent coordinator. She has already assumed her responsibilities.

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